



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

Nashrat Al-Sabah



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Sudan-US Relations

- U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte is scheduled to arrive in Khartoum today to convey a message from President Bush to President Al-Bashir regarding bilateral relations. Negroponte will also hold talks with Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol regarding the controversy over deployment of UN forces to Darfur. (*Al-Wihda, Al-Ayaam, Al-Sudani*)

- U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Andrew Natsios disclosed during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing that the U.S. has agreed to a two-to-four-week delay in sanctioning Sudan, at the request of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. The chairman of the hearing, Senator Joseph Biden, urged the use of U.S. forces to end the suffering in Darfur. Natsios added that the U.S. is currently contemplating sanctions against 29 Sudanese companies. The sanctions, he said, would be similar to those applied with some success against Iran and North Korea: "If the sanctions are targeted against the Sudanese companies, it could lead to the paralysis of some operations, and will have an effect on the economy."

Natsios announced that personal sanctions against two Sudanese government officials and one member of a Darfur rebel group will be imposed for war crimes. The sanctions would forbid travel by the three to the United States and would lead to the confiscation of any U.S. assets they may possess.

Regarding the role of China in resolving the Darfur crisis, Natsios told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the Chinese government "has been largely supportive of our efforts to resolve the Darfur situation through peaceful means and has been publicly encouraging Khartoum to allow

African Union (AU) and U.N. peacekeepers into Darfur." (*Al-Sudani, Al-Sahafa, Alwan*)

Sudan-Chad clashes at the borders

- The Chadian government admitted yesterday that its forces fought a deadly border battle with Sudanese forces. Chadian government spokesman Hourmadji Doumgor stated that Chadian troops were chasing Chadian rebels and entered unintentionally in a confrontation with the Sudanese Armed Forces. The Chadian government also accused the Sudanese government of providing protection for the militants' retreat. Sudanese Minister of Interior Abdel Raheem Hussein stated in a briefing to the Parliament that Sudan reserves its legal right to respond to the attacks, arguing that the Chadian apology to Sudan regarding this incident is not sufficient. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

President Al-Bashir talks with President Mbeki

- President Al Bashir stated that South African President Mbeki has expressed his satisfaction with the progress of Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation, adding that Mbeki also welcomed the agreement concluded with the UN in Addis Ababa. President Mbeki also promised to mediate between Sudan and Chad following recent clashes between the two countries. (*Sudan Vision*)

Quote of the Day

"The army is prepared to repulse any attack on Sudan "- Minister of Defense Abdel Raheem Hussien

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